

IN THE ABSTRACT

A computer-implemented method and system for assisting in the intermediation of realtime meetings, including telephone calls and face to face meetings. A user informs his system that he wishes to, for example, make a telephone call. The system sends a request for a realtime meeting to the specified target. Both the target and the requester queue the request. When both the requester and the target are mutually available, the realtime meeting can take place. Some embodiments cause this to happen automatically, some prompt the user to take action, such as dialing the telephone.

IN THE CLAIMS

All claims under consideration are shown below (claims 1-16, 28-49, and 53). Amend claims 1 and 42 as shown below.

1. (Once amended) A computer-implemented method for the intermediation of real time meetings, comprising:

receiving an indication by a requester system that a requester wants to request a realtime meeting with a target;

sending to the target a request to conduct a real time meeting;

after sending the request, sending by the requester a status of the requester;

queuing the request by the requester system; and

connecting the requester and the target when the requester and the target are mutually available.

2. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, further comprising dequeuing the request when the realtime meeting successfully completes.

3. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein a system of the target is polled to determine the target's availability.

4. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein the system of the target sends the target's availability status to the requester.

5. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein a system of the requester is polled to determine the requester's availability.

6. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein the system of the requester sends the requester's availability status to the target.

7. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein mutual availability is determined by checking the availability of the requester and the target.

8. (Unamended) The method of claim 1, wherein a request is sent to a plurality of targets and mutual availability is determined when the requester and a quorum of the targets are available.

9. (Unamended) A computer-implemented method for the intermediation of realtime meetings, comprising:

receiving, by a target system from a requester system, an indication that a requester wants to request a realtime meeting with a target;

queuing the request by the target system; and

connecting the requester and the target when the requester and the target are mutually available.

10. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, further comprising dequeuing the request when the realtime meeting successfully completes.

11. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, wherein a system of the target is polled to determine the target's availability.

12. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, wherein the system of the target sends the target's availability status to the requester.

13. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, wherein a system of the requester is polled to determine the requester's availability.

14. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, wherein the system of the requester sends the requester's availability status to the target.

15. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, wherein mutual availability is determined by checking the availability of the requester and the target.

16. (Unamended) The method of claim 9, wherein a request is sent to a plurality of targets and mutual availability is determined when the requester and a quorum of the targets are available.

28. (Unamended) A computer-implemented method for the intermediation of real time meetings, comprising:

receiving an indication that a requester party wants to request a real time meeting with one or more target parties;

receiving information indicating the availability of the requester party and one or more target parties to participate in the real time meeting;

determining that the requester party and one or more target parties are mutually available to participate in the real time meeting, in response to the received information; and

responsive to the determination that the requester party and one or more target parties are mutually available to participate in the real time meeting, initiating the real time meeting.

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29. (Unamended) The method of claim 28, wherein the initiating further comprises informing the requester party and one or more target parties that they should initiate communication.

30. (Unamended) The method of claim 28, wherein the initiating further comprises requesting the requester party and one or more target parties to open a connection.

31. (Unamended) The method of claim 28, wherein the availability of the requester party and one or more target parties is determined by checking at least one of: start or end of a call; other use of phone; recent activity at computer input devices; conversation near microphone; lights turned on/off; weight in chair or on floor; a motion sensor; opening/closing of door; spoken commands; computer keyboard/mouse based commands; touchtone commands; and scheduled periods of availability.

32. (Unamended) A system for intermediation of real time meetings, comprising:
a requester system for receiving a request from a requester party to initiate a real time meeting with one or more target parties associated with target systems;
a first server system associated with the requester system, the first server system for determining availability of the requester party;
a second server system associated with a target system, the second server system for determining availability of one or more target systems; and
a deciding agent in communication with the first server system, the second server system, the requester system, and the target system, the deciding agent for recording the request for the real time meeting, for receiving an indication that each the requester party and one or more target parties are available for the real time meeting, for determining whether the requester party and one or more target parties are mutually available for the real time meeting, and for initiating the real time meeting when all parties are mutually available.

33. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein each the first server system and the second server system is further adapted to record the request for the real time meeting.

34. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein each the first server system and the second server system is further adapted to delete the request for the real time meeting.

35. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the deciding agent is further adapted to communicate to the first server system to cease sending an indication that the requester party is available for the real time meeting.

36. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the deciding agent is further adapted to communicate to the second server system to cease sending an indication that the target party is available for the real time meeting.

37. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the deciding agent is further adapted to poll the first server system to determine the availability of the requester party.

38. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the deciding agent is further adapted to poll the second server system to determine the availability of the target party.

39. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the deciding agent is located at the target system.

40. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the requester system is further adapted to record the request to conduct the real time meeting.

41. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the target system is further adapted to reject a request to add one or more target parties to the real time meeting and to communicate the rejection to the deciding agent.

42. (Amended) The system of claim 32, wherein the deciding agent is further adapted to receive an indication that the requester party and one or more target parties are available by monitoring the activity of the requester party and one or more target parties.

43. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the real time meeting is conducted using a telephone.

44. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the real time meeting is conducted using Internet telephony.

45. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the real time meeting is specified as a face-to-face meeting.

46. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the real time meeting is specified as a text chat.

47. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the real time meeting is an online collaboration tool.

48. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, wherein the real time meeting is a shared application.

49. (Unamended) The system of claim 32, further comprising a plurality of requester parties and a plurality of target parties, and wherein the deciding agent initiates the real time meeting when a quorum of the requester parties and target parties is available.